GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:463
ANSWERED ON:17.05.2006
RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY IN NEPAL
Patil Smt. Rupatai Diliprao Nilangekar;Tripathi Shri Chandramani

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware of the ongoing unrest in Nepal;

(b) if so, whether this has become a security threat in several parts of the country;

(c) if so, the facts thereof;

(d) whether the matter regarding adequate protection to Indians in Nepal under this situation has been conveyed to the Nepalese authorities;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether an Indian delegation has gone to Nepal in a bid to assist them in the restoration of democracy there;

(g) if so, the details of talks held in that regard; and

(h) the efforts made by India in the process of bringing about peace and stability in Nepal?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a)-(h) A statement is placed on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN THE ANSWER TO THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 463, TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.05.2006 ON `RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY IN NEPAL`

(a) - (h) Government has been closely following events in Nepal arising out of the movement by the political parties for the restoration of multi-party democracy in Nepal, which rapidly gathered momentum in April 2006. After several days of country-wide and large scale demonstrations in Nepal involving hundreds and thousands of people, the King of Nepal handed over all executive power to a government of the Seven Party Alliance, and announced the revival of the House of Representatives on April 24, 2006. Thereafter, the agitations were withdrawn, and Mr. G.P. Koirala was sworn in as the Prime Minister of Nepal on April 30, 2006.

During this period, necessary measures were taken by the government to strengthen vigilance along the India -Nepal border. The matter of ensuring the safety and security of Indians in Nepal was forcefully taken up by government through diplomatic channels with Nepalese authorities.

Dr. Karan Singh paid a visit to Nepal as Special Envoy of the Prime Minister of India on April 19-20, 2006. During his visit, the Special Envoy was received by the King on April 20, 2006 and held meetings with leaders of prominent political parties on April 19-20, 2006. In his meetings in Kathmandu, the Special Envoy stressed the need for genuine dialogue between the constitutional forces in Nepal, with the objective of urgently restoring multi-party democracy in the country in order to overcome the crisis facing Nepal. He conveyed India`s readiness to support all efforts towards this end while emphasizing that a lasting solution to the problems of Nepal has to be found by the people of Nepal themselves through a peaceful political process.

India has consistently called for the process of genuine dialogue between the constitutional forces of Nepal to find a peaceful solution to the challenges facing the country, including the Maoist insurgency.